

Message Text

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H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US

SUBJECT: PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

REF: A. MOSCOW 18878 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT. AN AUTHORITATIVE UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN PRAVDA ON DECEMBER 31 REPORTED ON THE MEETING HELD IN BUDAPEST IN PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN PARTY CONFERENCE. IT CLAIMED THAT THE MEETING SHOWED A "BROAD COMMONALITY OF VIEWS ON ALL BASIC PROBLEMS." BUT IT ALSO CALLED THE MEETING A "STEP FORWARD TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT POSITIONS BY THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT" AND NOTED THAT ALL QUESTIONS ALREADY TOUCHED UPON IN WARSAW AND BUDAPEST REMAIN ON THE AGENDA--AN OPEN ADMISSION THAT POINTS OF CONTENTION DO REMAIN. ON SUBSTANCE, THE EDITORIAL FOLLOWED THE GENERALLINE OF THE PONOMAREV SPEECH AT THE MEETING (REFTEL), AND WAS CHARACTERIZED PRIMARILY BY A SPIRITED DEFENSE OF DETENT. ITS ONLY MENTION OF THE WEST'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULITES WAS IN CONJUNCTION WITH ITS CONTENTION THAT DETENTE SERVES THE WORKING CLASS. INTEREST IN THE WEST BY "EASING THEIR CONDITION," I.E., PROVIDING JOBS. IT SAID THAT MILITARY DETENTE MUST SUPPLEMENT THE RELAXATION OF POLITICAL TENSIONS IF DETENTE IS TO BE MADE IRREVERSIBLE, AND CLAIMED THAT THE PARTIES AScribe GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS PROCESS IN EUROPE--AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO MBFR. IT SAID THAT THE PARTIES FIND NECESSARY A FIRM STAND AT CSCE TO MAKE CLEAR TO ALL--APPARENTLY INCLUDING THE PEOPLE OF THE SOCIALIST STATES--WHAT TYPE OF RELATIONS SHOULD OBTAIN BETWEEN THE STATES OF EUROPE, AND ALMOST EXACT QUOTE FROM THE PONOMAREV SPEECH WHICH WE INTERPRET AS A CALL FOR CONTINUED FIRMNESS ON BASKET III. THE EDITORIAL DOES GO INTO THE "ENEMIES OF DETENTE," THOUGH AT LESS LENGTH AND WITHSOMEWHAT LESS VENOM THAT DID THE PONOMAREV SPEECH. ON THE ISSUE OF NATIONAL FRONTS, IT SADI THAT THE PARTIES SUPPORTED "BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE" COOPERATION WITH LEFTIST, DEMOCRATIC FORCES; BUT IT ALSO POINTED OUT THE "GREAT ATTENTION" PAID AT THE MEETING TO THE "ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY, THE SOLIDARITY AND UNITY OF ACTION" OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES. THE EDITORIAL ALSO POINTEDLY DESCRIBED THE IMPORT OF THE EUROPEAN MEETING IN EXTRA-EUROPEAN TERMS--PROBABLY AN EFFORT BOTH TO LEAVE OPEN THE

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OPTION OF DISCUSSING CHINA AT THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE AND TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR A WORLD CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. ON DETENTE, THE EDITORIAL STATED THAT THE FRATERNAL PARTIES CONFIRMED THAT THE TENDENCY TOWARD A CONSOLIDATION OF DETENTE IN EUROPE, AS WELL AS IN THE REST OF THE WORLD, IS "UNCHANGINGLY AND UNWAVERINGLY" INCREASING. IT CALLED

PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE THE "COMMAND OF THE TIMES" (VELENIYE VREMENI) WHICH "IN ALL RESPECTS" (POLNOST'YU) ANSWERS THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS. IT REASONED THAT 1) SUCCESS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY EASES THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS AND 2) THE "DAILY STRIVING OF THE WORKERS TO REACH SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW CREATE EVER MORE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE." IT POINTED OUT, AMONG OTHER ARGUMENTS, THAT THE PARTIES FROM THE CAPITALIST STATES STRESSED THAT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS IS NECESSARY TO EASE THE CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN THE WEST DURING THE ECONOMIC CRISES.

3. THE EDITORIAL TIED PROGRESS IN MILITARY DETENTE TO THE PEACE PROGRAM GOAL OF MAKING DETENTE IRREVERSIBLE BY STATING THAT THE "PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING REAL PROGRESS IN LIMITING THE ARMS RACE AND IN DISARMAMENT" SHOW THAT THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS ARE BEING CREATED TO GIVE AN IRREVERSIBLE CHARACTER TO THE POSITIVE CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE, ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE. QUOTING BREZHNEV THAT THE ARMS RACE CANNOT GIVE PEOPLE SECURITY, THE EDITORIAL CONTENDED THAT THE "EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES AScribe SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO (THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH) THE POLITICAL RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IS SUPPLEMENTED BY A RELAXATION IN MILITARY TENSIONS, IN ORDER THAT (THESE TWO PROCESSES) MAY LEAD TO AN OVERCOMING OF THE DIVISION OF EUROPE INTO OPPOSING MILITARY GROUPINGS."

4. ON THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE, THE EDITORIAL STATED THAT THE PARTIES DISCUSSED "ONE OF THE IMPORTANT TASKS IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE," THE NECESSITY OF HEIGHTENING VIGILANCE AGAINST THE "VARIOUS PLOTS" OF THE (UNNAMED) OPPONENTS OF DETENTE. ON CSCE, THE EDITORIAL CALLED FOR

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A CLEAR STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRATERNAL PARTIES AT CSCE IN ORDER THAT IT BE "COMPLETELY CLEAR TO ALL POLITICAL FORCES, TO ALL PEOPLES, WHAT TYPE OF PEACE, WHAT TYPE OF SECURITY, AND WHAT KIND OF COOPERATION COMMUNISTS ADVOCATE AND WHAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO UNDER-TAKE IN THIS REGARD."

5. THE EDITORIAL STATED THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE READY FOR "BUSINESSLIKE, CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS WITH ALL LEFTIST, ANTI-WAR, DEMOCRATIC FORCES, INCLUDING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORKING CLASS." AS A POSSIBLE WARNING THAT PARTIES IN NATIONAL FRONTS SHOULD REMAIN TRUE TO BASIC PRINCIPLES, IT CALLED A "SIGNIFICANT CHARACTERISTIC" OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING THE "GREAT ATTENTION WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS

DEVOTED TO THE QUESTION OF THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY
OF COMMUNISTS, THEIR SOLIDARITY AND UNITY OF ACTION."

6. IN CRITICISM OF EUROCENTRISM, THE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE WILL SERVE NOT ONLY
PEACE IN EUROPE, BUT ALSO "THE CAUSE OF THE DEFENSE OF
PEACE IN OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD" AS WELL. IT ALSO
CONTENDED THAT THE COMMUNISTS IN BUDAPEST SAW "AN INDISSOLUBLE
LINK BETWEEN THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE IN EUROPE AND THE
CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD."

7. IN RELATED PRESS COVERAGE, PRAVDA ON JANUARY 2
REPLAYED A STATEMENT BY HENRY WINSTON OF THE CPUSA SUP-
PORTING GUS HALL'S CALL FOR CONVENING OF AN "INTERNATIONAL"
CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES.

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